

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

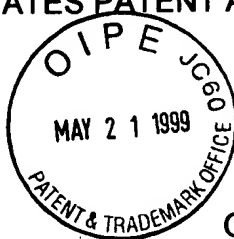
In re the application of:

SWAAK

Serial Number: 08/817,704

Filed: August 25, 1997

For: USE OF ERYTHROPOIETIN IN THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID
ARTHRITIS



Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: Cunningham, T.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FOR CPA FILING

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 21, 1999

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed December 21, 1998. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and entry of the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 as follows:

DI *See* 14. (Amended) A method of treating chronic inflammation in a patient in need of such treatment [thereof], comprising administering to the patient [an] a chronic inflammation treating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period of at least 2 weeks[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

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